

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRAZZA 01161 01 OF 02 161559Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 PC-01 SY-05 A-01

OPR-02 MCT-02 CA-01 SCS-06 OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01

/136 W

-----107966 161654Z /46

P 161511Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1010

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRAZZAVILLE 1161

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CF

SUBJECT: ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT

REF: BRAZZAVILLE 1149 AND PREVIOUS

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TIP-OFF ON ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT
CAME SHORTLY AFTER MID-DAY AUGUST 12, WHEN ACCUSED PLOTTER PATRICE
FINA MATSIONA ARRIVED IN OFFICE OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OBENGA,
ARMED TO THE TEETH. MINISTRY WAS OTHERWISE EMPTY, BUT
PRESIDENTIAL DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR, FRANCOIS ITOUA, WHO WAS
WITH OBENGA, HAD SEEN THROUGH WINDOW FINA'S MERCEDES PULL
UP, AND FINA ARRIVE, "IN A SUSPICIOUS MANNER." THIS LED
ITOUA TO WARN OBENGA WHO, IN TURN, HAD ALERTED SECURITY,
WHO THEN SEIZED FINA IN OBENGA'S OFFICE. THEREAFTER, FINA
REPORTEDLY BLURTED OUT SUBSTANCE OF COUP PLAN, INCLUDING
INFORMATION TO EFFECT THAT OBENGA'S DEATH WAS TO BE FOLLOWED
IN QUICK SUCCESSION BY MURDER OF OTHER NORTHERNERS, INCLUDING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRAZZA 01161 01 OF 02 161559Z

RESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISOR EKONDY, MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMBER
ANGA, AND PRESIDENT. SECURITY THEN MOVED TO ARREST OTHER ACCUSED,
(ALSO LARIS) FELIX MOUZABAKANI, BERNARD KOLELA, AND
DIEUDONNE MIAKASSISSA--ALL SAID TO BE HELD AND STILL ALIVE.

2. RUMORS OF A SOUTHERN PUTSCH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING
FOR MONTHS (BRAZZAVILLE 885) AND, GIVEN A CONGOLESE

PENCHANT FOR MARKING ANNIVERSAIRES BY COUP ATTEMPTS, TIMING ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "CONGOLESE REVOLUTION" (WHICH OCCURRED ITSELF ON THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE) DOES NOT STRIKE US AS UNUSUAL.

KOLELA HAD BEEN A LONG-TIME OPPONENT OF SOCIALISM, AND TAPES OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ALONG THOSE LINES-- OF YEARS AGO--NOW ARE BEING PLAYED ON BRAZZAVILLE RADIO AS "EVIDENCE" OF HIS COMPLICITY. MIAKASSISSA WAS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNDER NGOUABI. MORE RECENTLY, HE WORKED IN BRAZZAVILLE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND SPENT FAIR AMOUNT OF TIME PAN-HANDLING IN WESTERN EMBASSIES (NOT OURS). MOUZABAKANI WAS A POLITICAL OPPONENT OF NGOUABI. FISHING MERCHANT FINA, WITH HIS FLEETS OF TRUCKS AND MERCEDES, OFFICES IN ZAIRE, AND HIS YOUNGER BROTHER'S OPERATION OF A STRING OF CALL GIRLS, WAS LESS THAN AN OBJECT OF ADMIRATION FOR WHAT IS THE OFTEN HYPOCRITICAL PURITANISM OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. ADDITIONALLY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT FINA, WHO ATTENDED SCHOOL IN BRAZZAVILLE WITH OBNNGA, HAS BEEN A LONG TIME RIVAL OF HIS.

3. EMBELLISHMENTS SUCH AS THREAT OF FOREIGN MERCENAIRES, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, ETC. MAY HAVE BEEN INVENTIONS OF FINA OR OF YHOMBY. EKONDY THREW IN "MENANCE OF LOCAL LEBANESE" IN MEETING WITH CHARGE AUGUST 14: SOMETHING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRAZZA 01161 01 OF 02 161559Z

FOR EVERYONE. CERTAINLY NONE OF THESE ALLEGATIONS, NOR COMPLICITY OF "SEVERAL WESTERN AND AFRICAN CAPITALS" HAS BEEN LOCALIZED, OR PROVEN. NOR ARE THEY LIKELY TO BE. AND WE SEE LITTLE POSSIBILITY AS OF NOW--PERHAPS FOR THAT VERY REASON THAT CONGO WILL GO, AS BENIN, TO UNSC TO SEEK PUBLICITY AND ALMS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRAZZA 01161 02 OF 02 161617Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 PC-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02
MCT-02 CA-01 SCS-06 OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12
/136 W

-----108101 161655Z /46

P 161511Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1011
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRAZZAVILLE 1161

4. YHOMBY'S REACTION HAS BEEN DRAMATIC AND FORCEFUL.
ALL NATIONAL DAY EVENTS WERE CANCELLED. HIS AUGUST 14
SPEECH IS BEING RERUN REPEATEDLY ON RADIO (TEXT POUCHED
DEPARTMENT AF/C-KATES). A 9 P.M.-5 A.M. CURFEW IS ON,
AND SECURITY DURING THOSE HOURS IS VERY TIGHT.
YHOMBY SPENT A FITFUL NIGHT AUGUST 14, SEVERAL
SOURCES CONFIRMING THAT HE WAS CONCERNED IN THE EXTREME
THAT THE PLOT WAS LARGER AND STILL THREATENED THE SECURITY
OF HIS REGIME (SEE SEPTTEL). AUGUST 15 SAW A FLY-BY OF
CONGOLESE MIGS, "ON PATROL." AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER,
FERRIES CONTINUE TO RUN TO AND FROM KINSHASA AND, AS OF
11:00 A.M. LOCAL AUGUST 16, BRAZZAVILLE IS BACK TO ITS
REGULAR NON-FRENETIC PACE OF LIFE.

5. YHOMBY IS USING OCCASION TO MOBILIZE POPULATION
AGAIN AGAINST "FORCES OF REACTION" IN AN APPARENT
EFFORT INTER ALIA, TO INCREASE HIS OWN POPULARITY. HE HAS EMPHASIZED
THE POINT THAT NGOUABI HAD PARDONED MOUZABAKANI, KOLELA,
AND MIKASSISSA FOR THEIR "CRIMES" AGAINST STATE,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRAZZA 01161 02 OF 02 161617Z

INDICATING THAT HE, YHOMBY, WOULD OFFER NO SUCH MERCY--
THEREBY TAKING STRIKE TO SHOW HIMSELF AS TOUGHER THAN
HIS PREDECESSOR IN SUCH MATTERS. AT SAME TIME, THREAT TO
STATE AND ATTENDANT REQUISITE SECURITY MEASURES CAN BE USED BY
GOCB AS ANOTHER EXCUSE FOR INEFFICIENCY IN MEETING
PLAN TARGETS AND UPCOMING PAYROLL DEADLINES.

6. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, ARRESTS WILL BE USED TO INTIMIDATE
FURTHER LARIS AND OTHER SOUTHERNERS, WHOSE GROUNDING
WAS ON THE INCREASE. PREDICTABLY, SOUTHERNERS IN
BRAZZAVILLE BELIEVE WHOLE STORY WAS MADE UP FOR
PURPOSE OF PERSECUTING INNOCENT OPPOSITION. THEY
POINT TO FACT THAT THUS FAR ONLY TWO OF BRAZZAVILLE'S
ARRONDISSEMENTS HAVE SENT TELEGRAMS SUPPORTING YHOMBY.
WHETHER LARIS ARE CONVINCED OR NOT, NORTHERNERS ARE

UNITED IN BELIEF THEY HAVE SCOTCHED ANOTHER SOUTHERN CABAL. AND THEY MAY HAVE. OTHER OPPONENTS--GUILTY AND INNOCENT--ARE LIKELY TO BE DRAWN INTO THE ACCUSATIONS. THIS, IN TURN, MAY BE ENOUGH TO OFFER YHOMBY A PRETEXT TO MAKE GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES TO REINFORCE HIS OWN HAND. EKONDY TOLD US AUGUST 14 THAT HE WAS BEING ACCUSED BY SOUTHERNS OF MOUNTING, ALONG WITH OBENGA AND YHOMBY, A "PRE-EMPTIVE COUP" WITH THAT AS ITS VERY OBJECTIVE.

7. WE STILL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OF OUR OWN, YET THEY MAY WELL NEVER BE ANSWERED. THERE INDEED DOES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN A PLOT. FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INVENT ONE AT THIS TIME SOUNDS UNNECESSARY, SINCE PAYROLLS HAVE BEEN MET THROUGH THE END OF AUGUST, AND NEXT PAYMENTS COULD BE DELAYED, CONCEIVABLY THROUGH OCTOBER, WITHOUT PROVOKING WIDE-SCALE WRATH. BUT, STIRRING UP THE PEOPLE AND MOBILIZING THEM THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRAZZA 01161 02 OF 02 161617Z

BROADER ALLEGATIONS OF INTERNAL REACTION AND EXTERNAL IMPERIALISM ARE NOTHING NEW TO AFRICA NOR, FOR THAT MATTER, THE REST OF THE WORLD. KATZEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRAZZA01161
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780335-0599
Format: TEL
From: BRAZZAVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780855/aaaabubp.tel
Line Count: 198
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 80b7fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRAZZAVILLE 1149
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1714653
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT
TAGS: PINT, CF, (FINA MATSIONA, PATRICE), (MOUZABAKANI, FELIX), (KOLELA, BERNARD), (MIAKASSISSA, DIEUDONNE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80b7fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014